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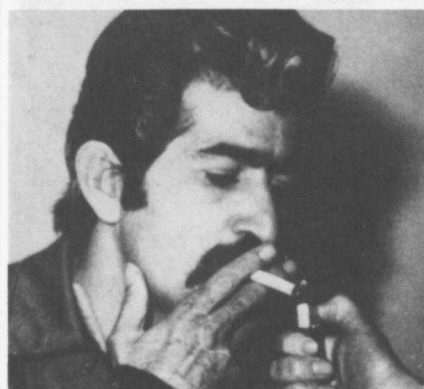
international newsletter

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## More than 1,600 put to death since revolution New wave of executions in Iran

Up to 130 people are reported to have been executed in Iran in a three-week period to 6 July 1981. Many of them were put to death for purely political reasons connected with the dismissal of President Abdolhassan BANI-SADR on 22 June.

- In the 10 days up to 24 June, 32 people are said to have been executed.
- On the night of 5 and 6 July alone 27 people were put to death, according to the state radio. Twenty-three of them were executed in Evin prison, Teheran; three were executed in Sari, near the Caspian Sea, and one in the north-western city of Tabriz.



Said Soltanpour. . . executed poet

Of the 23 people who faced firing squads in Evin prison, 15 had been arrested in Teheran during clashes between pro- and anti-Bani Sadr groups.

Thirteen more supporters of the dismissed president were sentenced to

life imprisonment and 47 others got between one and five years. One was acquitted for lack of evidence.

In a news release on 26 June, *AI* said it had asked its members around the world to appeal to the Iranian authorities to halt the current wave of executions which had added to the total of more than 1,600 people already put to death since the 1979 revolution.

This figure of 1,600 is a minimum estimate, based on the deaths that have become definitely known to the outside world—the real toll may be much higher. The estimate does not include reports of many summary executions said to have taken place, particularly in areas where people belonging to the Kurdish minority are fighting government forces for more autonomy.

Among those executed in the latest wave was the poet and playwright Said SOLTANPOUR, who was imprisoned under the late Shah's rule and adopted then by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience. He was arrested again in April 1981 after accusing the present authorities of torturing people and suppressing freedom.

Other victims included at least 10 members of the Baha'i faith.

Most executions are believed to have been carried out swiftly after sentences passed by Islamic Revolutionary Courts. In May 1980, *AI* said in a detailed report on Iran that people condemned by these courts were consistently denied fair trials (see June 1980 *Newsletter*).

Over the years before the 1979 revolution *AI* frequently condemned political imprisonment, torture and execution under the late Shah. It has subsequently made repeated appeals to the revolutionary authorities in Iran to halt executions and grant fair trials.

- A man was stoned to death on the orders of a revolutionary court in Kerman on 5 July, according to the daily newspaper *Ettela'at*; he was said to have committed incest □

### AHMED BEN BELLA, NOW FREE, THANKS AI



Ahmed Ben Bella

The former President of Algeria, Ahmed BEN BELLA, who was released in November 1980 after 15 years' detention without charge or trial, visited *AI*'s International Secretariat in London on 3 July 1981 to thank the movement for its efforts on his behalf.

The former president, who was adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience, was arrested in June 1965 after a coup by his Minister of Defence, Colonel—later President—Houari BOUMEDIENNE, who died in 1978.

His visit to London was part of his first trip abroad since he was freed. In a speech to members of the International Secretariat, he stressed that his visit was private, not political, and that he had come to express his thanks personally.

He made the point that *AI* fought for the liberty of people irrespective of their political program, provided they had not used or advocated violence, and that *AI*'s actions on his behalf had not been an endorsement of his political position, but had been undertaken solely for his freedom. This was important, he said, not only for him, who was now free, but for thousands around the world who had not yet been released.

He said also that people must not, despite appearances, think that governments with whom *AI* dealt on behalf of imprisoned individuals were un-influenced by the organization's actions.

Ahmed Ben Bella said he had contracted a debt to *AI* and from now on was to be considered a militant of and for *AI* □

## USSR Prisoner speaks up for AI

A prisoner of conscience serving eight years' strict-regime corrective labour in a Soviet labour colony has issued an open letter defending AI against attacks which have appeared in the Soviet press over the past year.

The letter, by Vladimir OSIPOV, a prisoner of conscience adopted by AI, has appeared in Soviet *samizdat* (writings published privately without official approval or censorship) and in an emigre journal in Paris.

It is directed particularly against an article which appeared in the Soviet newspaper *Izvestia* on 16 March 1981 which said one of AI's major tasks was to "create as much noise as possible around the alleged violations of human rights in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries". The article quoted statements by "reformed" prisoners alleging that AI had misrepresented their cases.

Earlier, in a 4,000-word article on 26 August 1980, *Izvestia* had accused AI of being "maintained by imperialist secret services" (see December 1980 *Newsletter*).

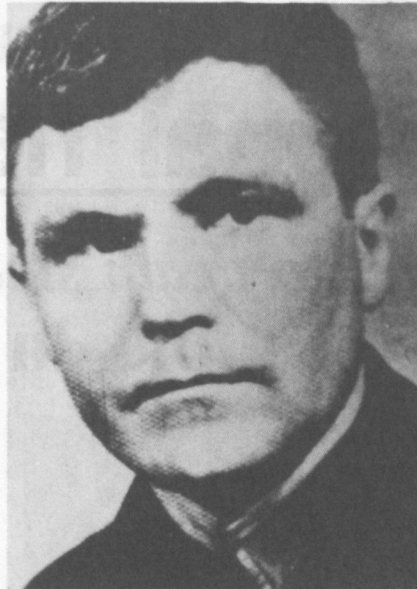
Vladimir Osipov, a Russian nationalist born in 1939, was arrested in November 1974 and sentenced in September 1975 after being convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" for his activities as an editor of two unofficial journals.

In his letter replying to *Izvestia*'s attacks, he points out that only eight years ago in 1973 AI was represented at the Moscow International Peace Congress and that the former Chairperson of its International Executive Committee, Sean MACBRIDE, had been awarded the Lenin Prize □

### 'MORAL INDEPENDENCE'

He says he and other prisoners of conscience see the recent attacks against AI as "retaliation against Amnesty's steadfast moral independence and refusal to bow to political pressure from anyone."

He says that a psychological campaign against prisoners of conscience in camps has accompanied the "ideological campaign" in the press. Prisoners who have publicly "repented" of their former activities, he says, are being used by the authorities both in



Vladimir Osipov

press articles denouncing AI and in daily surveillance and harassment of "unrepentant" fellow-prisoners.

Dealing with the "reformed" prisoners quoted by *Izvestia*, he names four who, he says, are still being held. "They repented of uncommitted wrongdoings before the authorities in the hope of purchasing freedom. But the authorities decided against releasing them. Instead, granting the occasional petty rewards, they decided to use them in the campaign of psychological terror which is carried out against those prisoners who have not pleaded guilty and have not shown themselves amenable to 'treading the path towards reform'".

The authorities' aim, he says, is to "exhaust, to deprive one of any rest, privacy, normal human contact". He adds that the least sign of personal resistance by prisoners of conscience is considered to be "terrorization of persons who are on the way to reform", which, he says, can carry a penalty of death by firing squad.

"Our conditions become daily more and more inhuman. For almost a year now we have received no edible bread: instead we receive half a loaf of some baked mass and three ladles of skilly. All letters from friends are confiscated and only about one-fifth of letters sent by relatives are actually given to us. Virtually no meetings with close relatives are allowed: we are deprived of them in accordance with the now-traditional formula 'for violation of the [camp] regime'".

Vladimir Osipov specifically emphasizes the non-violent principles of Soviet prisoners of conscience: "... violence is not something to be condoned in any context" □

## Zambia Public figures face charges of treason

Thirteen people appeared in court in Lusaka on 28 May 1981 to face charges of treason arising out of an alleged conspiracy to overthrow the government of President Kenneth KAUNDA in October 1980. They were remanded in custody to appear on a date still to be set.

The accused include several public figures, among them the lawyer Edward SHAMWANA and Valentine MUSAKANYA, a former governor of the Bank of Zambia, both of whom were the subject of urgent appeals by AI in January and April 1981, when it expressed concern at their continued detention without charge some months after their arrest. Four Zairians are among the accused.

Most of the defendants were detained in October 1980, when the government announced that it had forestalled a planned coup. After clashes near the capital, Lusaka, between security forces and a group of armed men, said to be of Zairian origin, a curfew was imposed and a number of people arrested. The government said that Zambian dissidents, backed by the South African Government, had recruited a group of former Zairian *gendarmes* to seize power in Zambia.

Several prominent Zambians alleged to be dissidents were released within weeks but at least 17 people remained in custody under presidential detention orders, including Edward Shamwana and Valentine Musakanya.

The two made separate applications to the High Court for writs of *habeas corpus*. Valentine Musakanya's was granted in late 1980, but he was immediately re-arrested and detained under a new order. A charge of treason was brought against him and then dropped before he could plead in court. Later the two men drew up a formal petition to the Speaker and members of the National Assembly in which they questioned the validity of presidential orders, arguing that they breached the constitution.

The petition was banned by the government, and a lawyer friend of the two detainees who helped to draw it up, Mohamed MANSOOR, a Sri Lankan, was declared a prohibited immigrant □

# Campaign for Prisoners of the Month



Each of the people whose story is told below is a prisoner of conscience. Each has been arrested because of his or her religious or political beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin or language. None has used or advocated violence. Their continuing detention is a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. International appeals can help to secure the release of these prisoners or to improve their detention conditions. In the interest of the prisoners, letters to the authorities should be worded carefully and courteously. You should stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. In no circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner.

## LEE Woo-jae, HAN Myung-sook, Republic of Korea

*Both were members of the Korea Christian Academy, an educational institution with a strong interest in the development of democratic principles and social justice in the Republic of Korea. They are serving prison sentences of five and two and a half years respectively.*

LEE Woo-jae, a veterinary surgeon aged 45, directed the academy's rural program, and HAN Myung-sook was Secretary of its Women's Program when they were arrested on 13 March 1979 with five other staff members. All were charged under the Anti-Communist Law and the National Security Law with, *inter alia*, possessing illegal books and setting up an "anti-state organization"—they were said to have indoctrinated others with socialist ideas and to have attempted to organize them with the aim of creating a socialist state.

During their trial, which began on 14 July 1979, the seven defendants stated that they had been tortured into confessing to the charges. Among other things, they said, they had been beaten up, deprived of sleep and threatened with execution. Lee Woo-jae said he had been beaten, and burned with cigarettes. Although the judge later dismissed the "confessions", he found them guilty on other evidence.

In January 1980 Seoul's Criminal Court of Appeal dismissed the "anti-state organization" charges, reduced five of the sentences and acquitted two defendants. Later, two of the remaining five were released and another is believed to have finished serving his sentence.

HAN Myung-sook is now serving her sentence in Sudaemoon prison in Seoul.

LEE Woo-jae is married with four children.

*Please write courteous letters appealing for the release of Han Myung-sook and Lee Woo-jae to: President CHUN Doo-hwan/The Blue House/Chongno-gu/Seoul/Republic of Korea.*

## Urbain SOSSOUHOUNTO, Benin

*A former student at the National University of Benin, he has been held since March 1979 without charge or trial.*

Urbain SOSSOUHOUNTO is one of about 50 people, mainly students, teachers and school pupils, who were arrested between March and November 1979 for expressing views critical of the government. About 25 of them are believed to be still in detention.

During 1979, students and school pupils in several parts of the country demonstrated to protest against their living and working conditions. They were especially opposed to a government-controlled body called the "Co-operative", established to represent student views and to implement a government directive obliging students to do agricultural work. The students accused the government of corruption and subservience to neo-colonialism and called for freedom of speech and association. Arrests of protesting and striking students took place throughout the year.

Urbain Sossouhounto was arrested after a school strike in Abomey in which he was suspected of being involved.

For more than a year, until July 1980, he and other students detained in 1979 were held in harsh conditions in Cotonou's *Commissariat central*, Police Headquarters; several of them were reported to have been beaten and tortured. The detainees were then transferred to civil prisons in Cotonou and Porto Novo, still without being charged. Their cells are said to be overcrowded and unhygienic; the students have no access to legal representatives and their medical facilities are inadequate.

Appeals by *AI* for their release have met with no response from the authorities in Benin.

*Please write courteous letters, preferably in French, appealing for the release of Urbain Sossouhounto and the other detainees to: Son Excellence le Colonel Mathieu KEREKOU/Président*

*de la République Populaire du Bénin/Cotonou/Bénin.*

## Manfred BARTZ, GDR

*A former writer now aged 46, he is serving a six-year prison sentence imposed in late 1980 for "incitement hostile to the state".*

Up to the end of 1976 Manfred BARTZ made his living as a satirical writer, turning out material for satirical cabarets such as "Die Distel", The Thistle, in Berlin, as well as humorous columns for newspapers of the Socialist Unity Party, the dominant political party in the German Democratic Republic (GDR).

In the early 1970s he resigned from the Socialist Unity Party (*AI* does not know why) and in 1976 he also left the Writers' Union of the GDR, reportedly in protest against the expulsion of Wolf BIERMANN, a Marxist song-writer who was deprived of his citizenship while on a concert tour in the Federal Republic of Germany. Afterwards, Manfred Bartz was unable to earn a living as a writer and worked until his arrest on 3 November 1979 as a manual labourer.

He was held for more than a year before being sentenced by the Berlin city court, under Article 106 of the penal code, which proscribes producing or disseminating material deemed to "discredit" social conditions, representatives or citizens of the GDR. *AI* does not know the precise background to the charge against him, but he is thought to have continued his satirical writing and to have distributed the material among his friends.

He is currently being held in Brandenburg prison.

*Please write courteous letters appealing for his release to: His Excellency Erich HONECKER/Chairman of the State Council/102 Berlin/Marx-Engels-Platz/German Democratic Republic.*

Addresses: oblique strokes indicate new lines.

The arrest and imprisonment of Czechoslovaks who express political dissent in their country is one of the AI concerns described in the 17-page Czechoslovak briefing paper which was published on 15 July 1981. The publication also details articles under the penal code which are used to jail prisoners of conscience, and describes the background to the use of such legislation, in which harassment often takes place without any court proceedings.

## Czechoslovakia's penal code — a case for review

In a letter sent on 18 June 1981 AI appealed to President Gustav HUSAK of Czechoslovakia to re-examine laws used to deny his people freedom of expression, information, religion and movement.

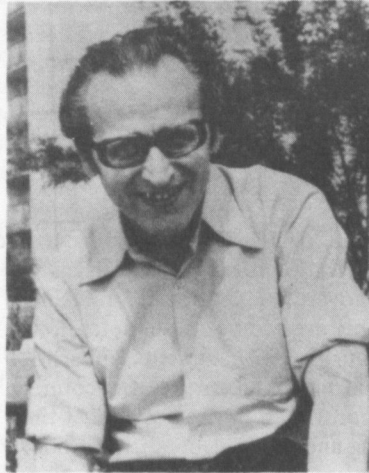
The letter, sent with a copy of the new briefing paper on Czechoslovakia, asked the President to review the country's penal laws to ensure that they were in line with its international commitments to respect human rights. In particular, it urged a case-by-case review of arrests and prosecutions under six articles of the penal code which were used to jail prisoners of conscience in contradiction to those commitments.

In its letter, publicized in a news release on 15 July, AI said it would welcome an opportunity to discuss its concerns with the government.

The briefing paper outlines human rights abuses in Czechoslovakia since the Soviet-led intervention in 1968, documenting the imprisonment of activists of the unofficial human rights movement called Charter 77, among others, and official action against the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted, known by its Czech initials as VONS.

The Czechoslovak Penal Code of 1973 contains a number of provisions which make it possible to construe the non-violent exercise of internationally recognized human rights as criminal. The right to freedom of expression and the right to seek, receive and impart information regardless of frontiers, (Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), are restricted by a number of provisions in Articles 91 to 115 of the penal code, which deal with "crimes against the Republic". Most Czechoslovak political prisoners have been convicted under Articles 98 and 100.

Article 98—subversion of the



**Rudolf BATTEK. . . a history of persecution and imprisonment for political activity going back to 1969.**

Republic—prescribes a prison sentence of one to 10 years for any person "who, out of hostility to the socialist social and state system of the Republic, engages in subversive activity against the social and governmental system of the Republic, its territorial integrity, defence capability or independence, or against its international interests".

Article 100—incitement—provides for imprisonment of between six months and five years for anyone "who, out of hostility to the socialist social and state system of the Republic, incites two or more persons:

- (a) against the socialist social and state system of the Republic;
- (b) against the territorial integrity, defence capability or the independence of the Republic; or
- (c) against the alliances or friendly relations of the Republic with other states."

In contravention of international law, both Articles 98 and 100 have been applied so as to make it a crime to engage in political or other public activity which does not conform to official policy. The wide formulation of these articles and the excessively broad interpretation given them by the Office of the Procurator breach inter-

national standards. This is illustrated by the fact that, although both articles require proof of hostile intent, AI knows of no case where the prosecution has substantiated this element of the charge.

In 1971 and 1972 a number of supporters of the "Prague Spring" were charged with subversion under Article 98, and in the late 1970s it was used against members of Charter 77 and VONS.

In May 1979, 10 VONS members were arrested on charges under Article 98. They were accused of preparing statements about people whom they considered to be unjustly persecuted, and of circulating this information within Czechoslovakia and abroad.

Six of them were brought to trial in October 1979 and convicted of subversion "in collusion with foreign powers" and "on a large scale". Petr UHL, an engineer, was given a five-year sentence; Vaclav HAVEL, a playwright, four and a half years; Dr Vaclav BENDA, a mathematician and philosopher, four years; and Otta BEDNAROVA and Jiri DIENSTBIER, both journalists, three years each; Dana NEMCOVA, a psychologist and mother of seven children, received a two-year sentence suspended for five years.

The remaining four defendants, Jarmila BELIKOVA, Dr Ladislav LIS, Vaclav MALY and Dr Jiri NEMEC, were released from pre-trial detention in December 1979, but criminal proceedings against them are continuing. In September 1980 Otta Bednarova was conditionally released on health grounds.

An 11th VONS member, Albert CERNY, a former actor, was arrested in March 1979 and sentenced in November 1979 to three and a half years in prison for participating in VONS and for distributing Charter 77 material.

A number of people have been charged with incitement under Article 100, which is used to punish people

who write, reproduce, distribute or even possess texts critical of the government's policies.

- Miloslav CERNY, an industrial worker, was sentenced to three years in prison in July 1977 for writing leaflets which criticized the government in connection with Charter 77, and for posting them up in public places.
- Gustav VLASATY, an active trade unionist, put on his office wall clippings from the party newspaper *Rude Pravo* announcing salary increases, and placed next to them his payslips showing no rise in his own pay. He was sentenced in April 1978 to 18 months' imprisonment under Article 100.

Some dissenters have been sent to prison on criminal charges which *AI* believes to be false, rather than on overtly political charges. For example, Dr Josef DANISZ, a lawyer who defended a number of Czech human rights activists, was convicted in March 1979 of "insulting a police officer" and sentenced to three months in prison, suspended for one year. He was also expelled from the Prague City Association of Lawyers and disbarred for three years. In January 1980 he was again brought to trial on charges of "grossly insulting a state agency and a public agent in the exercise of his function" (Articles 154 and 156) and sentenced to 10 months in prison and disbarment for another two years. His prison sentence was set aside under a general amnesty in May 1980.

Religious freedom is restricted by Articles 101 and 178 of the penal code. Article 101 deals with "misuse of religious function" and prescribes a prison sentence of six months to three years, and Article 178 covers "obstruction of the state supervision of the church", with a sentence of up to two years. Both provisions have been used to convict clergy for carrying out their duties as priests.

- Oskar FORMANEK, a retired 66-year-old Jesuit priest who had been barred from carrying out his functions as a priest, was sentenced in June 1980 to 18 months in prison, suspended for four years, for holding prayer meetings in private houses (Article 178) and for publicly stating that the church in Czechoslovakia was under communist control (Article 100).

In addition to imprisonment, other forms of punishment are imposed on people for expressing their opinions. Harassment in the form of short-term detentions, mostly for up to 48 hours, and ill-treatment of dissenters occur frequently.

The case of the sociologist, Charter 77 spokesperson and VONS member

## POLITICAL ARRESTS RARELY REPORTED

It is not possible to be precise about the number of prisoners of conscience in the CSSR. Information is limited because political arrests and convictions are rarely reported in the news media. Private individuals who publicize information about prisoners of conscience risk imprisonment themselves.

In April 1981 *AI* groups were working on behalf of 29 adopted prisoners of conscience and investigating six further cases.

**Prison conditions:** The law governing prison conditions is only a guideline and detailed conditions of imprisonment are defined in secret orders of the Minister of Justice. There is no law on conditions in pre-trial custody.

Czechoslovak law does not recognize political prisoners as a separate category, but there is strong evidence that they have suffered discrimination. Information received by *AI* shows that conditions of pre-trial custody and imprisonment fall short of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

- Political prisoners share cells with ordinary criminal prisoners. In Praha-Ruzyně prison two or three inmates are kept in cells only 6 sq m in area. In Brno-Bohunice

prison five or six inmates are kept in cells of 8.5 sq m. In January 1981, 32 inmates were being kept in a 55 sq m cell in Mirov prison.

- Prisoners normally work eight hours a day, five days a week—but political prisoners have been known to work up to 12 hours a day and occasionally a six-day week.

- The diet in prison is generally poor and lacks variety; the health of a number of prisoners is reported to have been impaired by serious protein and vitamin deficiencies.

- The number of visits, parcels and letters prisoners are allowed depends on the category of prison they are in. Inmates of category I prisons (the most lenient) are normally allowed visits of one hour every three months by two adults and the inmate's children. The are allowed one food parcel of up to 3kg every three months. Letters are censored and sometimes confiscated without reasons being given, and prisoners are allowed to keep only the letter they received last.

- Religious services are not permitted and priests and ministers are not allowed to enter prisons. Prisoners may not possess bibles and the authorities do not even tolerate religious rites which the prisoner can perform alone.

Rudolf BATTEK, whose history of persecution and imprisonment for political activity goes back to 1969, illustrates the continuous harassment to which many active dissenters are subjected: in the year leading up to his arrest in June 1980 the police acted against him nine times. The measures used included repeated house searches, short-term detentions, interrogations and surveillance.

On two occasions, after being interrogated, he was driven a long way from Prague and abandoned. His car was wilfully damaged and later stolen. On 14 June 1980 he was called to the local police station about the theft of his car. When no one attended to him he left, and a police officer ran after him and dragged him back. He was detained and charged with "assaulting a policeman". This charge was later changed to one of "causing bodily harm".

In January 1981 the Procurator informed Rudolf Battek's wife that in addition to the charge of causing bodily harm, he had been charged with subversion. In late June 1981 Rudolf

Battek, who suffers from a serious asthmatic condition, was still awaiting trial. For most of the 12 months of pre-trial custody he was denied contact with his wife and his lawyer □

## POLITICAL TRIALS

Article 199 of the Code of Criminal Procedure stipulates that trials should be open and the general public may be excluded only if public proceedings would endanger "state, economic and official secrets, the undisturbed conduct of the trial or public morality" (Article 200). In practice, however, almost all political trials are closed to the general public and only family members or close friends of the accused are admitted. Public galleries are usually filled with officially invited people, and foreign correspondents and other foreign observers excluded. Political trials are very rarely reported by the news media and the general public has almost no opportunity to learn about the details of such cases.

## Guatemala Italian priest shot dead

An Italian-born Roman Catholic priest was shot dead in a machine-gun attack by three men in Quirigua, northern Guatemala, on 1 July 1981.

Father Marco Tulio MARUZZO, a Franciscan missionary, was killed after the three gunmen had stopped his car as he was returning to his parish; he had just taken catechists home after a prayer meeting.

Father Maruzzo, 52, had been working in Guatemala since 1960. He is reported to have said recently that he feared for his life and that he had stipulated in his will that if he were killed he wished to be buried in Guatemala "as a testimony to government violence" there.

In August 1980 a Guatemalan priest to whom Father Maruzzo had transferred his duties in a parish house and convent had been forced to leave his work after bomb attacks on the two buildings.

A number of foreign religious personnel were expelled at the time.

According to the authorities, Father Maruzzo was killed by "unknown armed people".

Father Maruzzo is the second foreign-born priest reported to have been shot dead in Guatemala in 1981. On 15 February Father Juan Alonso

FERNANDEZ, a Spanish missionary of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart, was shot dead while he was travelling by motorcycle between San Miguel Uspantan and Cunen, in the northern department of Quiché.

Father Maruzzo is the ninth priest to have been killed or to have "disappeared" in Guatemala in the past 18 months (see July 1980 *Newsletter*). The victims are thought to have become targets because of their work with local peasants and Indians; they also helped to organize self-help projects and taught communities how to defend their constitutionally guaranteed civil and political rights.

The most recent "disappearance" of a priest report to *AI* was that of Father Luis Eduardo PELLECCER, a Jesuit, who was abducted by unidentified men on 9 June 1981. His house was later raided by members of the Guatemalan intelligence service, who killed one man and took another into custody. Father Pelleccer had been working with slum dwellers in Guatemala City.

Early reports indicated that he was still alive, possibly in the custody of the *policía judicial*, judicial police, in the port city of San José. Since then there has been no news of his whereabouts □

## Guinea Exiles are brought back

Three Guinean exiles living in the Ivory Coast are reported to have been arrested by the Ivorian security police on 27 April 1981 and sent back to Guinea the next day.

According to *AI*'s information a guard of Ivorian policemen accompanied them as they were flown to the Guinean capital, Conakry, in an unmarked aircraft.

From Conakry airport they are said to have been taken to Camp Boiro prison and beaten up by soldiers; two of them were returned to the Ivory Coast on 16 May and released. The third Guinean, BARRY Mouctar, a 40-year-old lorry-driver with a wife and six children, who has lived in the Ivory Coast for 15 years, is said to be still held in Camp Boiro, without access to his family or a lawyer.

### 'Great alarm'

These reported repatriations to Guinea are the first of their kind for many years, causing great alarm in the Guinean exile community in the Ivory Coast. In May *AI* expressed its concern to both governments.

The Guinean Government is reported to be seeking to apprehend those responsible for a grenade attack on President Sekou TOURE in May 1980 and a bomb attack on Conakry airport in February 1981. (A clandestine group calling itself the *Front patriotique*, Patriotic Front, has said it was responsible for both acts.) Although many people were arrested immediately after the grenade attack, all were reported to have been released by the end of 1980.

However, disturbing reports have been reaching *AI* of widespread arrests in Guinea in recent months. In addition, the Guinean authorities are said to be seeking the cooperation of authorities in Senegal and the Ivory Coast in the investigation of Guinean suspects in those countries and send them back to Guinea without following any recognized judicial procedures.

*AI* is concerned that Barry Mouctar and others said to have been detained in connection with the grenade and bomb attacks in 1980 and 1981 are reported to be held incommunicado in the camp and are feared to be suffering from severe ill-treatment □

## Malaysia Eight hanged within a week

Eight people were hanged in Malaysia in a six-day period in June 1981—the last three to die were hanged on 17 June.

These latest executions mean that 28 people have now been put to death in Malaysia since March 1980, when executions resumed in the country after a lapse of 11 years.

Most of those executed and the 40 or so prisoners who are awaiting execution have been convicted under the Internal Security Act or the Drug Act. The former includes a provision making the death penalty mandatory for the illegal possession of a firearm, as well as for murder.

On 10 and 19 June *AI* cabled the outgoing Malaysian Prime Minister, Datuk Hussein ONN (due to retire on 16 July), expressing deep concern at the resumption of executions. It said it opposed the death penalty in all cases without reservation and urged

the government to commute the sentences of all those sentenced to death □

### USSR executions: victims named

According to information reaching *AI* in July 1981, the three people reported by the USSR newspaper, *Baku Worker*, to have been executed in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaidzhan were not Raphael ADZIASHVILI, Elia MIKHAILISHVILI and Gabriel SPIASHVILI—three Jews from Georgia—as was at first believed (see July 1981 *Newsletter*).

The names of the executed men are now reported to have been: Ibragim BABAYEV, Iskender KULIYEV and Alekper MIRKISHIYEV □

## Bolivia

# Paralysed peasant leader held

The Bolivian authorities are holding a critically wounded Bolivian peasant trade union leader who is now paralysed after being shot in the spine during his arrest on 19 June 1981. At the time of going to press there were fears that the government might be planning to send him to a naval hospital in Argentina.

Genaro FLORES, Executive Secretary of Bolivia's banned Rural Workers' Confederation and a member of the Executive Committee of the trade union federation, COB, was one of the few members of the country's trade union leadership not to have been killed, arrested or deported after the military coup of July 1980. He is in urgent need of neurosurgical treatment.

He is being held in a police clinic in La Paz, where an *AI* doctor, the French medical specialist Dr Alain BERNARD, examined him on 2 July. Dr Bernard and a member of *AI*'s International Secretariat had flown to La Paz the day before to inquire into the peasant leader's case. *AI* had been pressing the authorities to acknowledge that he was in fact in custody. They eventually did so on 30 June.

After Dr Bernard had examined Genaro Flores, diplomatic sources in La Paz told the two *AI* delegates that the authorities were preparing to transfer him out of the country into the custody of a naval hospital in Argentina, in spite of the fact that he is a Bolivian citizen. The sources said a government decision to fly him to Buenos Aires had been taken in principle—although by the time of going to press it was still not clear whether the Argentine Government had received a request to this effect from the Bolivian Government.

*AI* cabled the Bolivian leadership on 3 July urging it to release Genaro Flores and not transfer him to Argentina. *AI* called on the authorities to free him immediately so that he could be cared for by a neurosurgical unit—the famous Foch Hospital in Paris was ready to receive him and the



Genaro Flores (centre) leads a trade union march.

French Government had already granted him permission to enter France.

Dr Bernard returned to France on 6 July and gave details of his examination at a news conference in Paris. He stressed that it was urgent for Genaro Flores to be transferred to a neurosurgical unit. He made it clear that unless the wounded man received swift and specialized treatment he was likely to be permanently paralysed.

Dr Bernard said the conditions of Genaro Flores' detention were not up to the surgical and medical requirements of the case.

The Bolivian cabinet is reported to have considered the case at a meeting on 7 July, but by the time of going to press its decision was still not known.

*AI* believes that Genaro Flores, who is married, was detained for his peaceful trade union activities.

- Members of Argentina's security forces are reported to have played an active part in the 1980 coup in Bolivia and a number are said to have taken part in or supervised the torture of Bolivian detainees (see July 1981 *Newsletter*)□

## Sudan

# Hundreds are arrested after strike

Several hundred trade unionists have been arrested in Sudan for taking part in a strike called by the 43,000-strong Sudan Railway Workers Union on 30 May 1981. The strike was in protest at the dismissal of 20 union members and the soaring cost of living.

The government had declared the strike illegal beforehand. When it went ahead the government ordered the union to be dissolved and banned its President, Abbas al-KHIDIR (who is also a member of parliament), from all union and political activities.

He and officials of the railway and allied unions supporting the strike were later arrested under the State Security Law and are reported to be held in military establishments in various parts of the country.

On 21 June President Gaafar NUMEIRI decreed an amendment to the State Security Law: the maximum penalty for anyone convicted by a security court of "organizing or encouraging a strike or work stoppage" is now death. According to the *Sudan News Agency*, President Numeiri declared any such activity to be "high treason".

*AI* has issued urgent appeals expressing concern about the arrests of the trade unionists, whom it believes to be prisoners of conscience, and has sought information from the authorities on their whereabouts and legal status. It has also protested against the introduction of the death penalty for an offence which involves the exercise of the right to engage in trade union activities as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights□

### DEATH PENALTY

*AI* has learned of 149 people being sentenced to death in eight countries and of 134 executions in another nine countries during June 1981.

### PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

For Prisoners of Conscience Week 1981, 11–18 October, *AI* is publishing a special 48-page report.

Advance orders to national sections or the International Secretariat. Price: £2.00



### Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in June 1981 of the release of 90 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 55 cases.

# The death penalty in Western Europe

## Significant moves towards abolition

Significant moves towards the abolition of the death penalty throughout Western Europe have been made recently in a number of European countries and intergovernmental fora.

On 9 July 1981 France's new Minister of Justice Robert BADINTER, told a news conference in Paris that a draft bill for the abolition of the death penalty would be put before the French Parliament in October 1981.

"France must have a new justice—freer, more humane and efficient," he said. "France, traditionally a land of peace, cannot have a justice which kills."

The new minister is one of France's best known criminal lawyers and a long-standing opponent of the death penalty. In December 1977 he was a participant at *AI*'s Stockholm Conference on the Abolition of the Death Penalty.

He was appointed to his new post on 23 June by the newly-elected President of France, François MITTERRAND, who had publicly stated his opposition to the death penalty during his election campaign and had told *AI*'s French Section that if he were elected President the French Parliament would "be invited

to take a decision [*se prononcer*] on the question".

On 25 May the new president commuted the death sentence on 25-year-old Philippe MAURICE, who had been convicted of murdering a police officer (see May 1981 *Newsletter*). *AI* had appealed to the former President, Valéry GISCARD d'ESTAING on 20 March 1981 to commute the sentence.

Seven prisoners remain under sentence of death in France. During the election campaign François Mitterrand said he would commute all death sentences until the law was changed.

On 18 June 1981 the European Parliament of the 10-member European Community, meeting in Strasbourg, adopted a resolution (by 144 votes to 30, with 22 abstentions,) expressing its "strong desire that the death penalty should be abolished throughout the community" and inviting member states to amend their laws accordingly where necessary.

On 28 May 1981 it was announced that the President of the Republic of Ireland, Dr Patrick HILLARY, had commuted the death sentences on Patrick McCANN, Colm O'SHEA and Peter PRINGLE to life imprisonment. The sentences had been imposed on 27 November 1980, after the three

men had been convicted of murdering a police officer. *AI* had appealed for their sentences to be commuted.

A fourth man under sentence of death in the Republic of Ireland—Peter ROGERS—had his sentence commuted on 1 July 1981 to 40 years' imprisonment. The 36-year-old Belfast man had been due to be hanged on 9 July, after being convicted of murdering a police officer. *AI* had issued an appeal for commutation of his sentence on 23 June.

Other recent moves have included the vote in the upper house of the Dutch Parliament on 6 May 1981 in favour of a constitutional provision which would explicitly abolish the death penalty in the Netherlands (see June 1981 *Newsletter*).

On 22 April 1980 the Parliamentary Assembly of the 21-member Council of Europe adopted a resolution and a recommendation favouring the abolition of the death penalty for peacetime offences in all member states.

• On 2 May 1981 the Swedish Section of *AI* adopted a resolution at its Annual General Meeting in Malmö calling on the countries of Western Europe to create a "death-penalty-free zone" as a step towards worldwide abolition of the death penalty □

## Costa Rica

### Teenager shot dead in cell

An 18-year-old prisoner is reported to have been shot dead and her two cell-mates seriously injured in San José's Central Penitentiary early on 1 July 1981. The attack on the three is said to have taken place while they were still sleeping.

The dead prisoner had been arrested on 12 June and held incommunicado for 10 days, during which she was reported to have been under constant interrogation.

The arrest of the three prisoners was in connection with a terrorist attack on 12 June in which a taxi driver and three members of Costa Rica's *guardia civil*, civil guard, were killed.

Costa Rican officials have said a civil guard acting on his own was responsible for the cell shootings.

On 3 July *AI* telexed the country's President, Rodrigo CARAZO Odio, asking for clarification of the prison shooting. It requested guarantees that the wounded would receive the medical treatment they needed and asked where they were being treated □

### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL TO MEET IN MONTREAL

*AI*'s supreme governing body, the International Council, will meet in Montreal, Canada, from 20 to 23 August 1981. It is the 14th meeting of the Council, and the first ever to be held outside Europe.

Delegates from all national sections are expected to attend as well as observers from groups in countries without sections.

The Council will discuss a two-year plan, recommendations on decision-making procedures and *AI*'s worldwide development □

### CHINESE RIGHTS ACTIVISTS: NEW ARRESTS

Twelve more people active in the "democracy movement" in the People's Republic of China are reported to have been arrested in late May 1981. This brings the number of such activists arrested since early April to 21.

Press reports link the arrests to the circulation inside the Chinese Communist Party of "Document No. 9", which calls on officials to suppress unofficial publications referred to in the document as "illegal".

*AI* has adopted as prisoners of conscience four of the 21: XU Wenli, YANG Jing, WANG Xizhe and FU Shenqi; it is seeking more information on the others □

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